

Salato Field Notebook

High School

Answer Key

1. Which reptile species has a prominent keel, a hooked beak and lives in deep waters such as the bottom of rivers, lakes or canals?

Answer: Snapping turtle (note: the alligator snapping turtle has 3 keels).

2. Part of the Alligator Snapping Turtle's tongue looks like a Fork. How do you think this helps the turtle catch fish?

Answer: They wiggle their forked tongue to look like a worm, attracting fish. Then when a fish swims in their mouth, they snap it shut.

3. What is the unofficial weight of the largest paddlefish caught in Kentucky?

Answer: 206 lbs! Caught in Lake Cumberland in 1966.

4. In what year did Kentucky begin its wild turkey (*Melegrus gallopardo*) restoration?

Answer: First restoration 1946; modern restoration 1976.

What is the current status of wild turkeys in Kentucky?

Answer: Thriving.

What are two ways to distinguish between male and female turkeys?

Answer: Males ("gobblers" or "toms") have red on the head, sport beards, have large fans, spurs, and their feet are bigger (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 6"). Females ("hens") have no red on the head, no beards, small fans and smaller feet (up to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ").

5. Compare the beak of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) and the Great-horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). How are they different?

Answer: The heron's beak is long and narrow; the owl's beak is short, sharp and hooked.

How would these differences influence their hunting strategies?

Answer: The heron catches swimming fish and swallows them whole; the owl hunts animals such as small mammals and reptiles and uses his beak and talons to kill them and tear them apart so he can eat them.

6. Which of the venomous snakes is found only in western Kentucky?

Answer: Cottonmouth.

Why?

Answer: Western Kentucky has large areas that are wet and boggy, providing more suitable cottonmouth habitat than the rest of the state.

7. How does the shape of deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) antlers differ from elk (*Cervus elaphus*) antlers?

Answer: Deer antlers form a basket on top of the head and elk antlers sweep backwards.

8. What are vomerine teeth and what are they used for?

Answer: Small structures on the roof of most frogs' mouths that are used for holding prey in place until it can be swallowed.

9. What are three ways you can support outdoor fun, clean water, and healthy fish?

Answer: Buy fishing poles, buy lures & tackle, fill your boat up with gas, buy a Kentucky fishing license.

10. Name 2 illnesses that can harm frogs

Bd Chytrid and Ranavirus.

Name the symptoms of each illness

Bd Chytrid- in tadpoles in can cause deformities, sores, tissue decay, and death.

Ranavirus- abnormal tissue growth and death.

11. Describe two Kentucky habitats you have observed today. Include sketches.